

Montana Transportation Commission

December 7, 2005 meeting

MDT Headquarters Building ~ 2701 Prospect Avenue Helena, Montana

Please note: the complete recorded minutes (audio files) are available for review on the commission's website at http://www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml.

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The following is an unofficial **summary** of commission action; the formal minutes of this meeting will be reviewed and approved at the next commission meeting.

Agenda item 1: Approve minutes of conference call on 11/14/ 2005

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the minutes as presented; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 2: Rest area design options and the Rest Area Plan

No action was required of the commission on this item.

Agenda item 3: Wetland mitigation feasibility study

Teller Wildlife Refuge north of Corvallis – Ravalli County

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of a feasibility study for Teller Wildlife Refuge north of Corvallis in Ravalli County to the program; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 4: Enhancement program on MDT right-of-way

Kerr Dam Road – Bike Path – West of Polson

Bike/Pedestrian Path – North of Big Arm

Commissioner Howlett moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of these two enhancement projects into the program; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 5: SAFETEA-Lu on-system earmarks

Zimmerman Trail – Billings

Bench Boulevard – Billings

Commissioner Espy moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the addition of these two projects to the program; Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 6: Construction projects on state urban system – Bozeman

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve let, award, and administer the project to reconstruct Durston Road from North 7th Avenue to North 19th Avenue in Bozeman to the City of Bozeman pending the concurrence of MDT's chief engineer; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 7: Speed limit studies

Commissioner Kottel moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the special speed zones for Radersburg and Fox Farm Road as presented (see below); Commissioners Griffith and Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Secondary 285 – near Radersburg

- A 35 mph speed limit beginning at station 13+00 project RS 86(4) and continuing east to station 21+00, an approximate distance of 800 feet.
- A 45 mph speed limit beginning at station 21+00 project RS 86(4) and continuing east to station 29+00, an approximate distance of 800 feet.
- The statutory 25 mph speed limit will remain in effect within the urban district.

U-5220 – Fox Farm Road

- A 40 mph speed limit beginning 200 feet south of the intersection with East Fiesta Road (Great Falls city limits) and continuing south to a point 200 feet south of the intersection with Dick Road, an approximate distance of 1.477 miles.
- A 45 mph speed limit beginning 200 feet south of Dick Road and continuing south to the end of the federal-aid urban route designation at the intersection with Fawn Drive, an approximate distance of .89-mile.

Agenda item 8: Letting lists

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the proposed letting lists for January, February, March, April and May 2006; Commissioner Espy seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 9: Certificates of completion for September/October, 2005

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the certificates of completion for September and October 2005; Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 10: Project change orders

October 2005 = \$140,726.69

Commissioner Griffith moved to accept staff recommendations to approve the project change orders for October 2005 as presented; Commissioner Howlett seconded the motion. All five commissioners voted aye.

Agenda item 11: Liquidated damages

- a. \$13,538.00 assessed on project *CM 0204(4) – 4th – Hickory to RR Xing - Anaconda*, Hollow Contracting Inc of Butte, MT
- b. \$5,343.00 assessed on project *STPP 27-2(16)36 – Baker – North*, Prince Inc of Forsyth, MT
- c. \$4,835.00 assessed on project *STPS 474-1(6)0 – Desmet Interchange – W*, JTL Group Inc-Missoula of Missoula, MT
- d. \$10,686.00 assessed on project *IM 94-3(58)85 – Forsyth E & W (WB)*, Prince Inc of Forsyth, MT
- e. \$6,769.00 assessed on project *SFCS 347-1(2)0 – Jct. S – 288 – East*, Hollow Contracting Inc of Butte, MT
- f. \$39,182 assessed on project *NHTSA-STPP 0002(454) – Safety Improvements Somers Area SFCP-STPHS 82-1(3)1 – Somers – East*, JTL Group Inc-Kalispell

No contractors appeared to contest the liquidated damages.

The commission took no action therefore the liquidated damages stand.

Agenda item 12: Commission discussion

Lynch distributed a copy of his response to correspondence from the Mayor of Sidney requesting a bypass. As requested by Debbie Deagen and Mary Vant Hull, Lynch provided a copy of their correspondence and MDT Butte DA Jeff Ebert's response to the commission. Their interest is creating a safe bike/ped trail between Belgrade and Bozeman. Communication is ongoing with them on this issue.

Lynch noted that we have given a permit to Glacier Bank in Kalispell to build a skywalk from one building to another on a side street off US 93.

Commissioner Howlett asked Lynch to discuss the letter from Dr. McDonald requesting an overpass in Pablo. Howlett noted that the college is building a physical education facility and he was interested in building a medical facility. He asked if we wouldn't re-look at a pedestrian structure in Pablo in the area of the tribal complex. Howlett stated that he was part of the planning for this project, and in retrospect, it appears this was an oversight. There are a tremendous number of kids crossing the street at this location.

For additional details, please refer to the commission's website at
www.mdt.mt.gov/pubinvolve/trans_comm/meetings.shtml

=> Lynch will bring more information to the commission at their January meeting

Morning Star Drive update

Lynch said Bureau of Indian Affairs forces got quite a bit of work completed and at this point two-thirds of the lift is down, which means the road is in gravel. They will need to finish the curb and gutter, sidewalks and paving in the spring.

=> Chairman Kennedy asked for an update on the status of the negotiations with each of the tribes at the next meeting.

Duman said another piece is the administration of the IRR program. Whereas the BIA had sole authority on disbursing IRR funds, the tribes can now work directly with the Federal Highway Administration. Rulemaking is still needed to establish all the details. Commissioner Howlett noted that consistency will be needed on a national level. Duman said we are advising tribes not to incur any costs until the implementation details are known.

=> Lynch said I will have a detailed report for the commission in January.

Base stabilizer

MDT staff met with FHWA about this request from Liberty County. They understand that the state will take over the maintenance of paved secondary roads, however, there is a catch-22 in that a lot of counties don't have the resources to do that, and are looking for other ways they can receive federal participation by using a base stabilizer on these roads which reduces their maintenance costs. => We are still working on that process and will have more information at the next meeting.

Federal earmarks

Straehl distributed a spreadsheet showing the above-the-line and below-the-line earmarks. It has been updated to show the changes made during the TCP meeting process. There are about \$3 million in transit earmarks that have not yet been defined.

Agenda item 14: Set commission schedule for upcoming meetings

Chairman Kennedy said two days will be set aside so that we have more flexibility to pick a day as the year goes along.

Meeting schedule for 2006 (location is Helena unless otherwise indicated)

January 25, 2006

March 1-2, 2006

April 13, 2006

May 24-25, 2006

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June 28-29, 2006 (visit to district 5)

August 2-3, 2006 (visit to district 2)

September 13-14, 2006

October 18-20 (this will include the preparatory meeting prior to the development of the Tentative Construction Program (TCP))

=> Note: dates for the TCP meetings will be named at the January meeting.

December 6-7, 2006

Conference call dates

February 6, 2006

March 6, 2006

April 10, 2006

May 8, 2006

June 5, 2006

(July bids will be awarded during the June 28 meeting if possible)

July 31, 2006

August 28, 2006

October 2, 2006

November 13, 2006

December 18, 2006

Agenda item 13: Public comment

None received.

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